

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2017

Sister Marie Patrice Garrity, SSND
Educator, Principal



Sister Marie Patrice Garrity, a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, died on April 13, 2017, at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton, Connecticut. She was 88 years old and had been a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 68 years.

Mary Katherine Garrity was born on February 6, 1929, in Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts. She was baptized on March 3, 1929, in Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Her parents were Patrick John Garrity and Margaret Downey from Counties Galway and Cork, Ireland, respectively. God later blessed them with one boy and three girls. In September, 1934, Mary Katherine entered the first grade at Our Lady of Lourdes School conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph. She received her First Communion in May, 1936, and was confirmed in May, 1940, by Archbishop Cushing. It was in the grammar grades that she expressed the desire to become a nun. She then entered Mission Church High School, Roxbury, Mass. and became acquainted with the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She loved Mission and was very involved in the school's debating and oratorical clubs. The sisters impressed her with their excellent and dedicated teaching as well as their kindness. Their example led Mary to enter the convent.

On August 28, 1946, along with nine young women, Mary received the Candidate's bonnet at Our Lady of Perpetual Convent in Roxbury. That day they said goodbye to their families, travelled by train to Baltimore, and entered the Candidature. During her first year in the Candidature, Mary studied in the Teacher Training Program. During her

second year, she taught first grade at Blessed Sacrament School in Baltimore. On July 16, 1948, Mary entered the Novitiate. She had requested that she be given the name, Patrice. Marie Patrice professed her First Vows a year later on August 3, 1949, and her Final Vows on August 3, 1955.

Sister Marie Patrice taught at Immaculate Conception, N.J. (1949-1960), and at St. Theresa, Trumbull, Conn. (1960-1965). She was principal of the following schools: St. Lawrence I, Huntingtin, Conn. (1965-1972); St. Brigid, Westbury, N.Y. (1972-1978); Trumbull Catholic, Conn. (1978-1984); and Mission High, Roxbury, Mass. (1984-1992). Marie Patrice loved to teach and she was an excellent administrator.

By a decision of the Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Boston, two well-loved parish high schools were closed at the end of the 1991-1992 school year: Girls Catholic High School in Malden and Mission Church High School in Roxbury. Both of these schools were founded by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. With the closing of Girls Catholic High School in 1992, Marie Patrice became Asst. Principal at Cathedral School, another city high school. She continued there in administrative positions until 2005. She then volunteered to tutor students in Mission Grammar School and also helped out at Brigham Women's Hospital.

In 2011, Sister Marie Patrice retired and moved to Villa Notre Dame in Wilton, Conn. In June 2014 was moved to the adjacent Lourdes Health Care Center. She was happy to reconnect with people she knew as well as to have the opportunity to meet new friends. One of the staff taught painting, Sister Patrice producing beautiful works of art.

Sister Marie Patrice died during the night of April 13, 2017.

Maria Patrice was predeceased by her brother, John Patrick, and her sisters Patricia Heavey, and Arlene Tenney. She is mourned by her sister, Bernadette Campbell, of Norwood, Mass., her-sister-in law, Carol Gerrity of Cal., nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and by her community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, AtlanticMidwest Province, c/o Development Office, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, Connecticut 06897 or online: http://atlanticmidwest.org/ways_to_make_gifts.html

